

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
May 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following members of the Commission, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown, Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb. Janis Fullilove was absent.

Others in attendance included: Ricky E. Wilkins, The Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins; Zayid Saleem, City of Memphis Assistant City Attorney; Bridgett Handy-Clay, City of Memphis, Open Records Coordinator, Judge Sugarmon, City Court, Steve Mulroy, County Commissioner, Shea Flinn, City Council member among others.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the Commission meeting of April 24, 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes, the minutes were approved as presented.

OPENING DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS: Chairman Lowery called on Steve Mulroy, County Commissioner and Shea Flinn, City Council member, to present their proposal on Instant Runoff Voting. Mr. Mulroy recapped the benefits of IRV. He noted that Instant Runoff Voting is cheaper, and has better voter turnout. He further stated that within the next two years the City of Memphis will be required to purchase new voting machines that are compatible with IRV. Mr. Flinn concurred with Mr. Mulroy's comments and added voters should be giving the opportunity to choose IRV for city elections.

After much discussion, Commissioner Brown made a motion that a referendum be placed on the ballot for Instant Runoff Voting, subject to available technology, and the approval of the Election Commission. The vote was seconded by Commissioner Brooks.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Aye
George Brown	Aye
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent
Sharon Webb	Aye

The motion was approved by all members present.

CITY COURT CLERK AND JUDGES

Chairman Lowery noted the motion failed for a referendum to add part time Judges to the City's Charter during the April 24, 2008 meeting and then called on Judge Sugarmon to voice his opinion concerning the vote. Judge Sugarmon asked the Commissioners to take in consideration the language on page two of his letter which he drafted and felt his colleagues are in agreement with. Commission Brown expressed his feelings concerning the Charter Commission potential involvement with the City Judges Proposal. Chairman Lowery suggested, since Judge Sugarmon's request for additional staff has budgetary implications, the request be referred to Administration and City Council.

Commissioner Brown made a motion that the provision as drafted by Judge Sugarmon to add 2 part time judges appear as a referendum on the ballot and that section 255 of the Charter be modified to reflect the positions. The vote was seconded by Commissioner Campbell.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Nay
Willie Brooks	Nay
George Brown	Nay
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent
Sharon Webb	Aye

With (3) Ayes and (3) Nays the motion failed.

VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Chairman Lowery called the Commissioners attention to the letter in their packet from former Councilwoman Carol Chumney dated January 24, 2008. He explained Ms. Chumney recommended that in the event of the resignation of the Mayor, that a special election be held within 60 days. He then stated that the Election Commission recommends 75 to 90 days.

In addition, Commissioner Brown distributed and explained his proposal concerning the above matter. A discussion followed and due to limited time, Chairman Lowery asked to postpone voting until the next Charter Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Webb suggested that Professor Whirls or Mr. Wilkins present their recommendations on amending the City's Charter to obligate the City of Memphis government to fund Memphis City Schools.

Commission Brown asked to reconsider the vote concerning the Mayors contracting authority at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meetings of the Commission will be held on May 29, June 12, and 19 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bridgett Handy-Clay